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in a suggestive and helpful way. The citations from ancient grammarians are not too numerous, and are well selected. In the treatment of the syllable the results reached by Professor Dennison in his article, "Syllabification in Latin Inscriptions" are incorporated; and in the chapter on the hexameter a table is given (compiled from La Roche, *d. Hexameter bei Vergil*), which shows how often each type of hexameter is used in the *Aeneid*. The commonest of all, we learn, is that which has a dactyl in the first and fifth foot, then those with a dactyl in the first, second and fifth, in the first, third and fifth, etc.

For the teacher's purposes this part of the book might have been greatly improved by the addition of a full and fair statement of some of the methods actually employed in oral scansion, together with some of the arguments made to support them. A Latin teacher should at least have an inkling that the way in which he learned to scan himself is not the only or the necessary way, but that some play must be allowed to suit individual capacity and preference. If we are to read Latin poetry as we do English poetry, we must have the same freedom also which we enjoy in doing the latter.

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*The Development of Standard English Speech in Outline.* By J. M. HART.  
New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. Pp. x+93.

Lest the title of his little book should be misunderstood, Professor Hart has explained in his preface that the "book is not a history of the language, not even in the barest outline, but merely an attempt to show how the Englishman or American of today has come by his pronunciation." In fact the author has prepared for a larger audience the lectures he has given for some years to students of Middle English in Cornell University. Books that are the outcome of courses of lectures are not always pleasing to the reader, for they retain necessarily something of the atmosphere of the classroom and of methods of presentation best suited to the platform or the desk. But in this case, owing to the nature of the subject, there is a positive gain in clearness and simplicity of expression. The publication is the result of ripe scholarship, dealing with a subject of considerable difficulty, still unsettled in many of its details. The author has selected from the mass of material, provided by the investigations of many scholars, the most important facts and those sufficiently established, illustrating them by a few well-chosen examples, and calling attention as he passes to important or interesting exceptions to the laws of change. He has also pointed out certain peculiarities of pronunciation that are still unexplained and apparently inconsistent. Though not writing a history of the language, the author has followed the historical order, which is the only profitable way of dealing with such matters. His book consists of three chapters. There is a short introductory chapter, referring to the influence of Danish and French upon English, distinguishing the three periods—Old, Middle, and Modern English, and indicating the distribution of the language into southern, midland and northern dialects. Then comes a chapter of forty pages on vowel changes, including vowel-lengthening, vowel-shortening, changes in vowel-quality, diphthongization, and a chrono-

logical survey of changes. The final chapter deals with consonant changes, the loss and intrusion, the voicing of consonants, and palatalization. The book is neatly printed in type of good size and is provided with a full index.

It is only just to say that this booklet furnishes the best existing introduction to the subject of which it treats. There has been much need of a simple statement of the ascertained facts concerning regular changes in English speech during the last thousand years. The writer has been particularly careful to give, so far as can now be done, the chronology of these changes. Scholars have long been interested in the subject. In 1869 A. J. Ellis published Part I and Part II of his work on *Early English Pronunciation with Especial Reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer*; in 1871 Part III; in 1873 Part IV; in 1889, Part V ("The Existing Phonology of English Dialects"). Incited by this work Henry Sweet wrote an essay for the Philological Society of London (*Transactions*, 1873-74), which he afterward expanded into *A History of English Sounds* (1888). Both this work and that of Ellis contain useful word-lists. In 1892 Sweet published *A New English Grammar, Logical and Historical, Part I*, afterward condensing the historical part into *A Short Historical Grammar* (1892).

Meanwhile on the continent there was increasing activity. Men like Maetznér, Koch, Sievers, ten Brink, Kluge, Cosijn, Jespersen, Luick, and others, were making large contributions to the history of English phonology and inflection, while a host of dissertations on special points of grammar came from the German universities and, more recently, from those of England and America.

The time has now come when some of the results of this study should be easily accessible to teachers and others, interested in English speech. To them Professor Hart's book will prove a convenient and trustworthy guide in its own direction. The book presupposes an elementary knowledge of Old English (Anglo-Saxon) and some acquaintance with Middle English texts. And so much preparation the teacher of English today ought to have gained.

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*The Sounds of the French Language: Their Formation, Combination and Representation.* By PAUL PASSY. Translated by D. L. SAVORY AND D. JONES. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. Pp. viii+134. 2s. 6d.

It is twenty-one years since the first edition of Passy's well-known manual of the French sounds. Published originally in the interest of the spelling-reform movement, its author has steadily enlarged his field of observation and widened his interests. Only last year the Teubner house issued M. Passy's *Petite Phonétique comparée des principales langues européennes*, an exceedingly useful little book, and unique of its kind. We regard the appearance of these two publications as a striking indication of the growth of interest in the physiology of the speech-sounds of the modern languages, and as a well-deserved tribute to the solidity of M. Passy's work. Accurate in observation, cautious in generalization, and clear in exposition, he is a safe guide for teachers and students who are dealing with the foreign languages as living tongues.

The translation of Messrs. Savory and Jones really constitutes a new edition (the seventh) of the *Sons du français*, for "many hints have been added, intended